

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application, with Claims 1, 4, 18, and 20 being independent. Claims 1-20 have been amended herein to improve their form. The changes are not proposed to be made for any reasons related to patentability.

The Abstract was objected to because it contains two paragraphs. The Abstract has been amended as requested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract are respectfully requested

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,984,034 (Tsujimoto). However, neither this patent nor its corresponding patent application publication (2004/0008244) qualify as prior art under any subsection of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Although Tsujimoto has an earlier filing date than the actual filing date of this case, they have the same inventor. Accordingly, Tsujimoto does not qualify as prior art and § 102 rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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